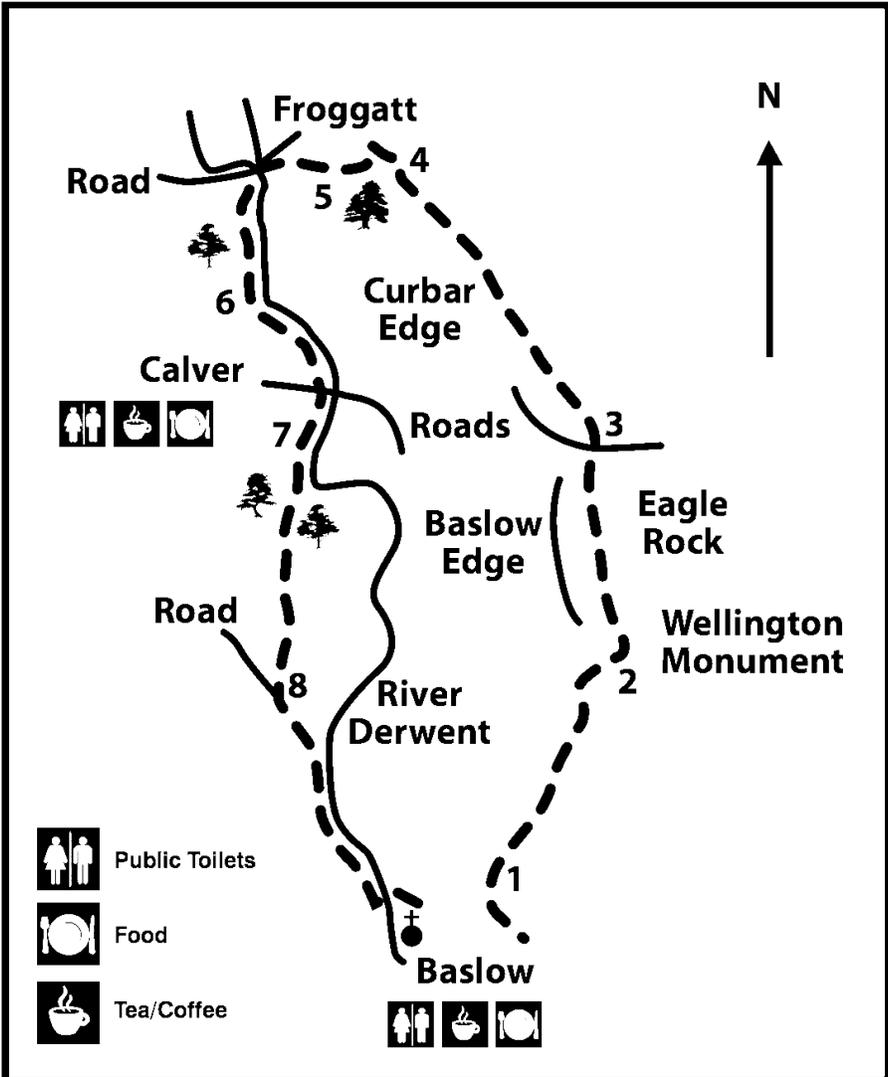


A series of 6 walks in the Peak District, researched and published by Transition Chesterfield, that can be reached by public transport from Chesterfield, for people without cars, or who want to leave the car at home. Unfortunately constant changes to the bus timetable, ticket costs, in some cases routes and even bus numbers make keeping this information updated impractical. Instead, we suggest you check the current status online at: <http://www.derbybus.info/times/>. For the other walks see: www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk.

Walk No. 6: Baslow Circular via Froggatt Edge

Summary: an easily accessible and varied walk, starting with a long and sometimes steep ascent to the moors, then along Curbar and Froggatt Edges, descending through woodland and along the tranquil River Derwent back to Baslow. Distance 10km (6.5 miles); about 3 hours.



Walk description:

1: Alight from the bus at Nether End, the first stop in Baslow, and cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing into Eaton Hill, directly opposite. Walk up this then turn right into Bar Road; carry straight on where it turns into a Restricted Byway, and follow it up the hill, ignoring any paths to the left and right, finally passing through a gate to the top of the hill. There are several sharp turns, and points where there are improving views of Chatsworth behind you.

2: Where the Wellington Monument – a stone cross – comes into clear view ahead and to the right (about 30 metres past the seat), there is a track forking left, leading past the Eagle Stone. Take that and stay on it until it comes to a road. Or, take the footpath leading sharp left just prior to the fork, which has excellent views as it follows Baslow Edge to reach a crescent shaped view point with a small panorama board, after which it turns right to rejoin the Eagle track. There may be free-roaming and fearsome-looking Highland cattle around here but, like most cows, they are quite placid if left undisturbed.

3: Take the left gate onto the road and cross straight over to the path on the other side. Follow this track, or again walk along the edge itself (there are many connections between the two). After about 2km there is a post with a yellow marker pointing diagonally down to the left, just before a stone wall on the right. This comes just after a long steady descent and a right kink in the track. Turn left down the path.

4: At first it leads under the rocks of the edge; then, after about 150 metres, and about 40 metres before a rock pillar, known as Froggatt Pinnacle, it turns very sharply back to the left (this is not signposted) and goes steeply downhill. It is very important to find this turn correctly as the path ahead only leads to climbing areas, and becomes quite difficult. The correct path is very rocky for the first 50 metres, but then improves as it runs down through the woods to a gate.

5: Go through the gate and continue straight on down, across a road and onto the path opposite. Carry on until you come to a minor road – you are now in Froggatt village. Turn right along the road and walk down to the bridge.

6: Cross the bridge and, immediately on the other side, turn left onto the path alongside the river. If you are very lucky (and quiet) you may see water voles here. Follow the path until you cross a stream on a small footbridge, then turn left. Cross the road, taking care of fast-moving traffic, and go down the track opposite, ignoring the sign saying 'Private Entry' (this applies to vehicles only), and then along the path next to the water channel. Follow it where it is signposted diagonally rightwards across a field, going through a gate to the left of a building (the caravan site office). Take the driveway ahead of you down to the road.

7: Where the driveway meets the road turn left then go through the subway under the road, staying on the path as it follows the river. Just after the river turns sharply left, as you enter a small wood, the path turns to the right. Stay on it through the wood and out the other side, where it runs along the bottom of a bank (on your right), with a wall on the left.

8: After a while a wall on the bank comes down on your right, and then the bank turns sharply right; here, the path turns away from the wall on your left, diagonally towards a gap in the wall ahead of you (a few metres to the right of a gate). Go through the gap into a field and then diagonally across it, to the left of a pair of double gates, and then through another gap onto a (very quiet) minor road. Turn left onto that, and walk along it until you come to a bridge, just past a weir. As the road rises there are views behind of the edges walked earlier. Go over the bridge and you are now back in Baslow. The bus stop for buses from Bakewell is at the end of the bridge, or that for other buses is opposite the church, around to the right.

Some paths may be rough or, if it has been wet, slippery, so wear appropriate clothing, especially footwear. Where there are steep or long hills this will be mentioned in the route description; however, it should be borne in mind that this is the Peak District and descriptions of conditions are relative to the area. The route map is very simplified so we recommend that you also carry an OS map, either Explorer OL24 (1:25,000) or Landranger 119 (1:50,000), which both cover all the walks in this series - maps can usually be borrowed from public libraries. Remember the Countryside Code: leave gates and property as you find them, protect plants and animals, take your litter home, keep dogs under close control and please consider other people.